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A DWARF FORM OF AGAVE ANGUSTIFOLIA.

BY WILLIAM TRELEASE.

Among a number of interesting unnamed forms dating from the enthusiastic days of agave cultivation of a generation ago, Professor C. S. Sargent, of Brookline, Mass., presented to the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1909 a little plant obviously of the alliance of *Agave angustifolia* but differing from that species as ordinarily known in its small size and narrowly oblong leaves with reduced prickles, and in not suckering. The flowering of this plant in the summer of 1911 enables me to describe it. Though there is reason to believe that when purchased it bore one of the barely or not at all placeable names under which rarities in this genus were sold thirty years or more ago,—for in appearance it is strikingly different from the usual forms of *Agave Jacquiniana*, *A. ixtlioides*, *A. excelsa* or *A. rigida*, as *A. angustifolia* has been called commonly,* I find no means of connecting any published name with it, and therefore take pleasure in naming it for Professor Sargent. So far as is now known, the specimen is unique, but it is certain that others of its kind must have found their way into the collections of amateurs at the time when this was bought, and it will be interesting to learn where it may still be found in cultivation either in such original plants or in derivatives from them, and under what names.

***Agave angustifolia Sargentii* Trelease.**

Dwarf, shortly caulescent, not suckering. Trunk about 25 cm. high. Leaves numerous, spreading, straight, slightly grayish green, smooth, dull, narrowly oblong-lanceolate, 2.5×25 cm., from flatly biconvex becoming shallowly concave toward the end: spine blackish gray, rather dull, minutely granular-roughened, 3×20 –25 mm., not decurrent, the upper face flattened or with a low keel: prickles 10–15 mm. apart, nearly black, glossy, 1–2 mm. long, variously but prevalently up-curved, the very slender cusps from broadly triangular bases,

* See Rept. Mo. Bot. Gard. 19:284.

gradually diminishing in size toward the base and apex of the leaf. Inflorescence slightly glaucous, scarcely 1 m. high, with few nearly simple branches at the very top: bracts narrowly triangular, appressed, not widely separated: pedicels scarcely 3 mm. long. Flowers yellowish green, about 40 mm. long: ovary lightly glaucous, 7×18 mm., obconical, somewhat contracted at the top: tube deeply urceolate-conical, 8 mm. deep: segments $4 \times 15-17$ mm., quickly drying: filaments inserted nearly in the throat of the tube, sharply inflexed against the style at first, then outwardly ascending, somewhat maroon-dotted like the style, 25 mm. long and about one-half longer than the segments. Fruit? Freely bulbiferous, with the characteristic bulbils of the type.

In appearance and leaf-outline, the vegetating plant closely resembles greener forms of *A. macroacantha*,* from which its characteristic ungrooved end-spine sharply distinguishes it. The possibility exists that it may have been distributed under one of the names applied to that species; but the differences in the arming of the leaves are accentuated in its maturity by the very different panicle and flowers. How far the peculiar geniculation of the filaments—not shown in such specimens of *A. angustifolia* as I have seen,* though observable in *A. Cantala* and its closest allies—may be characteristic remains to be ascertained.—*Pl. 100-103.*

EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

Agave angustifolia Sargentii.

Plate 100.—Flowering plant, about one-tenth natural size. The tall plant behind it is *A. Karwinskii*, behind which are pulque magueys (*A. atrovirens*): at the left is a fairly developed plant of the Jäumave ixtle (*A. Funkiana*), and at the right a young henequen (*A. fourcroydes*).

Plate 101.—The same plant somewhat less reduced, with bulbils, in the autumn after flowering,

Plate 102.—Pedicels, flowers and leaf-arming, natural size.

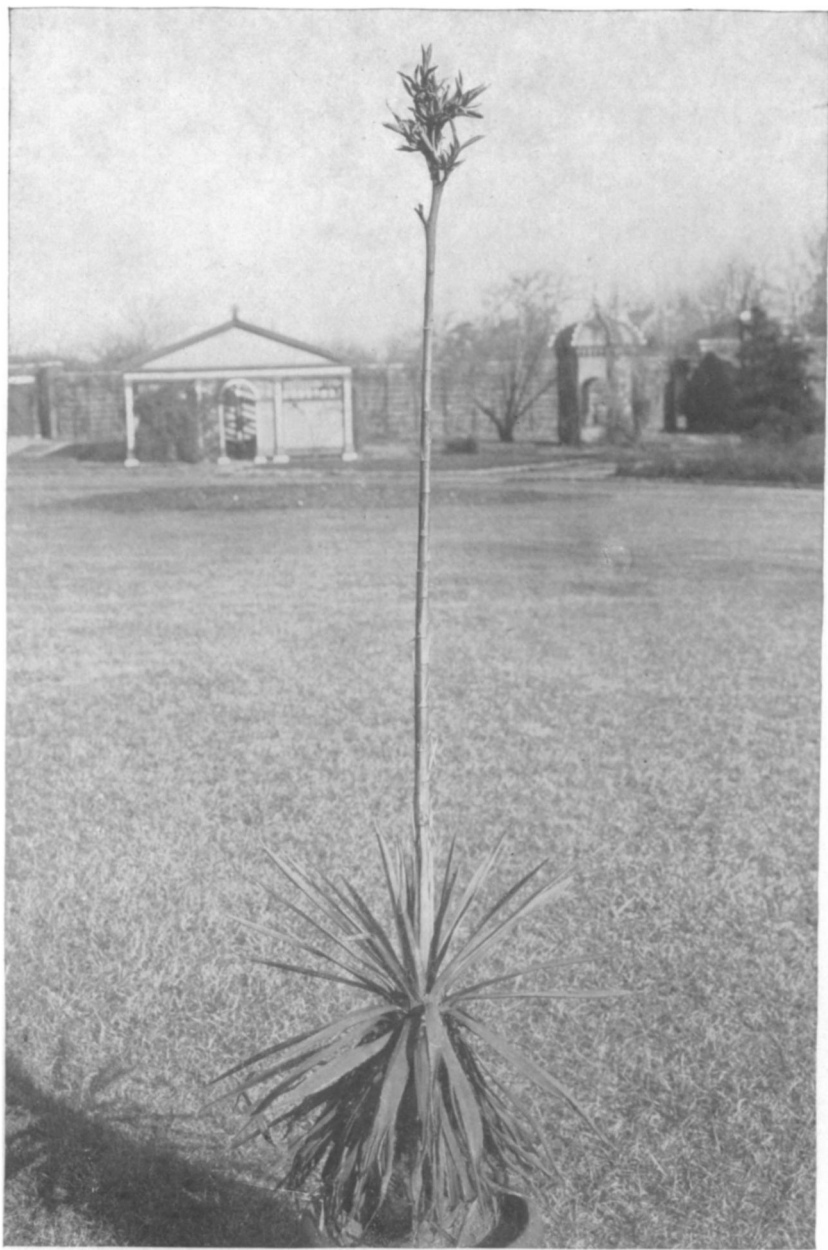
Plate 103.—Bulbils at top of the old inflorescence, natural size.

* See Rept. Mo. Bot. Gard. 18:247. *pl. 22*, etc.

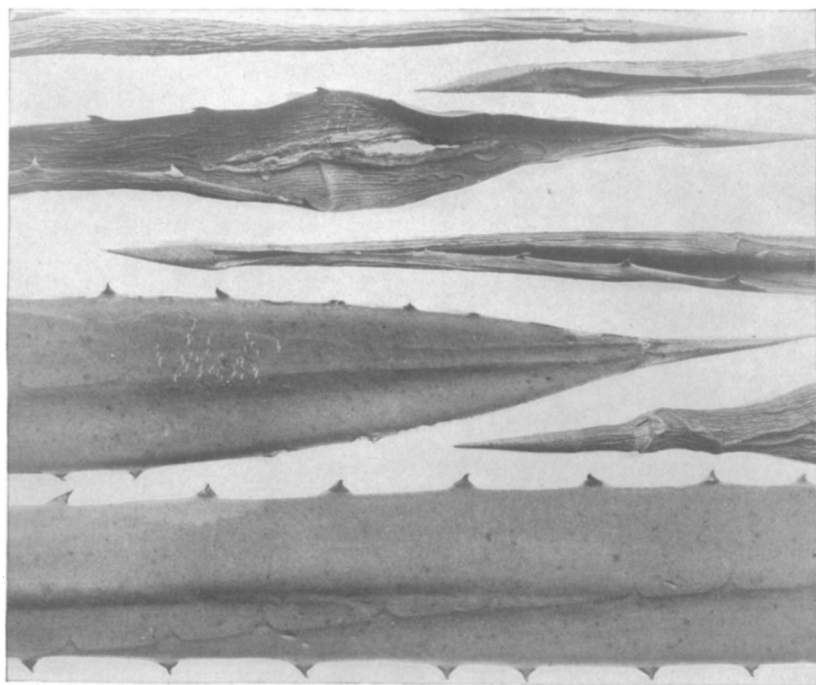
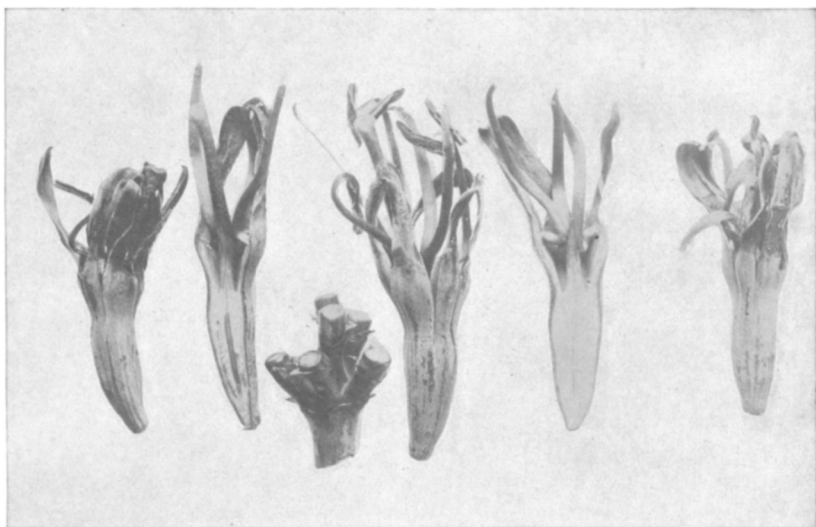
* Rept. Mo. Bot. Gard. 19: *pl. 34*.



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